

Claims:

1. A system comprising:
software accessed at a provider computer, the software adapted to prompt the provider to input data concerning a workers' compensation claim, the software adapted to send an electronic claim number request containing at least some of the data across the Internet to a workers' compensation claim verification system; and
a workers' compensation claims verification system adapted to receive the at least some of the data and to determine therefrom any matching workers' compensation claim number, if there is a matching workers' compensation claim number, the workers' compensation claims verification system is adapted to electronically supply the matching workers' compensation claim number to the provider computer, if there is no matching workers' compensation claim number, the workers' compensation claims verification system is adapted to produce an indication of the lack of the workers' compensation claim number.
2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the indication is an early-alert message from the Workers' Compensation claims verification system to a payer computer.
3. The system of Claim 1 wherein the indication is a signal to other software systems co-located with the workers' compensation claims verification system.
4. The system of Claim 1 wherein the workers' compensation claims verification system electronically requests a workers' compensation claim number from a payer computer.

5. The system of Claim 1 wherein the software accessed at the provider computer is part of a workers' compensation medical treatment reporting system.

6. The system of Claim 1 wherein the software accessed at the provider computer is adapted to use the workers' compensation claim number obtained from the Workers' Compensation claim verification system to produce medical treatment reports including the Workers' Compensation claim number.

7. The system of Claim 1, further comprising multiple providers, each having a provider computer containing Workers' Compensation software, each of the provider computers being operably connected to the Workers' Compensation claim verification system across the Internet.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the Workers' Compensation claim verification system contains claim data for a number of payers.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the Workers' Compensation claim verification system is updated with data obtained from payer computers.

10. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least some of the data sent across the Internet includes name data, social security data, and injury date data.

11. The system of Claim 1, wherein the Workers' Compensation claim verification system is adapted to interface with a payer computer to request a Workers' Compensation claim number using a database at a server, and in response to a claim verification request from a provider computer received at the

server database, retrieve a claim number from the database and provide the claim number to the provider computer.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein the Workers' Compensation claim verification system is adapted to receive claim numbers from any number of payer computers and match the payer claim numbers with claim verification requests received by the database from any number of provider computers.

13. The system of Claim 1, wherein the Workers' Compensation claim verification system received blocks of unassigned claim numbers from payer computers and the Workers' Compensation claim verification system, and assigns claim numbers to injuries from the blocks of unassigned claim numbers in response to claim verification requests received by the Workers' Compensation claim verification system from provider computers.

14. The system of Claim 1, wherein the Workers' Compensation claim verification system includes software that is adapted to allow a provider computer to access a payer computer, and payer computer to access the provider computer, for the purpose of requesting and supplying claim numbers.

15. The system of Claim 1, wherein the Workers' Compensation claim verification system is maintained at a payer computer.

~~16. A workers' compensation medical treatment reporting system~~
including:

software accessed at a provider computer, the software adapted to prompt the provider to input data concerning a workers' compensation claim, the software adapted to send an electronic workers' compensation medical treatment report electronically across the Internet to a payer computer; and

electronic report filtering software accessed at the payer computer, the electronic report filtering software adapted to direct the electronic report as a result of predetermined criteria, electronic workers' compensation medical treatment reports that meet a human review criteria are automatically sent to a case manager for review, other electronic workers' compensation medical treatment reports are automatically directed to be processed.

17. The Workers' Compensation medical treatment reporting system of Claim 16 wherein the predetermined criteria includes criteria based upon injury codes.

18. The Workers' Compensation medical treatment reporting system of Claim 16 wherein the predetermined criteria includes criteria based upon the injury severity.

19. The Workers' Compensation medical treatment reporting system of Claim 16 wherein the Workers' Compensation medical treatment report produced by the software is compliant with the regulations of the relevant jurisdiction.

20. The Workers' Compensation medical treatment reporting system of Claim 16 wherein the software accessed at the provider computer automatically sends an inquiry across the Internet to a Workers' Compensation claim verification

system in order to obtain a Workers' Compensation claim number for the Workers' Compensation medical treatment.

21. The Workers' Compensation medical treatment reporting system of Claim 16 wherein the criteria are such that the majority of Workers' Compensation medical treatment reports are not reviewed by a human case manager.

22. A bill attachment system including:

re-naming software that identifies and renames an attachment file according to an attachment file name specification, the attachment file name having a file type extension and a number of additional fields, at least one of the additional fields indicating information that allows the attachment file to be matched to a bill without requiring the attachment file to be opened, and

receiving software that receives the files and uses data in the at least one additional field in the attachment file name to process the attachment file.

23. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the attachment files are associated with medical bills.

24. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one of the additional fields indicates a Worker's Compensation claim number.

25. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one of the field types indicates payer ID.

26. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one of the fields indicates a patient's social security number.

27. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one of the fields indicates the date of service provided.

28. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one field of the file name indicates the type of service.

29. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one field of the file name indicates a provider ID.

30. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one field of the attachment file name indicates a provider name.

31. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one field of the attachment file name concerns the diagnosis code.

32. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one field of the attachment file name indicates the type of the document, this field being distinct from the file type extension.

33. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein one field of the attachment file name indicates time-stamp information.

34. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the attachment file names include field delimiter characters.

35. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the renaming software is located at a central server.

36. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the renaming software is located at a provider computer.

37. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the receiving software is located at a provider computer.

38. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the receiving software is located at a central server location.

39. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the bills are electronic bills.

40. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the electronic bills include a field to indicate the existence of one or more attachments.

41. The bill attachment system of Claim 22 wherein the renaming software prompts a user to input the data for the additional fields.

42. A bill attachment system including:

re-naming software that provides electronic file names having file header identifying information, containing a unique and singular electronic delivery file name for an attachment, such software allowing for files that need not be opened, viewed or printed, and permitting linking, routing and tracking of file attachments with a primary document.

43. A bill attachment system including:

software to identify batches of files for routing that does not use the file name but uses an accompanying batch document that identifies the attachments and includes the necessary specifications for delivery, linking and tracking, the file name of each attachment being a record in the batch document.

44. A bill attachment system comprising:

software to identify a single file for routing that does not use a file name but uses an accompanying document that identifies the file and includes the necessary specifications for delivery, linking and tracking, the file name of each attachment being a record in the file document, each attachment being a single document with header information for purposes of delivery, linking and tracking.

45. A workers' compensation system including:

an injury report system operably connected between a provider computer system and payer computer system, the injury report system allowing for the electronic production of injury medical reports to the payer computer system;

a workers' compensation claims verification system operably connected between a provider computer and a server, the workers' compensation claims

verification system allowing an electronic determination of a workers' compensation number;

a bill submission system at the server operably connected to electronically receive bills from a provider computer system; and

a payment status system operably connected between provider computer system and a payer computer system allowing the status of the submitted bills to be checked.

46. The system of Claim 45 wherein the bill submission system receives bills from the provider computer system.

47. The system of Claim 45 wherein a server contains the software to implement the injury report system, Worker's Compensation claim verification system, bill submission system and payment status system.

48. The system of Claim 45 wherein the bill submission system sends a bill to a payer computer system.

49. The system of Claim 45 wherein the injury report system provides the injury medical reports to the employer computer system.

50. The system of Claim 45, further comprising an automated reporting system operably connected between a payer computer system and an employer computer system, the automated reporting system allowing for the electronic production of injury incident reports.

51. A workers' compensation injury report system comprising:
a server accessible across the Internet to a provider computer system, to a payer computer system and to an employer computer system, the provider computer system accessing injury report system software and prompting the input of report data into fields of an electronic form, the prompted report data fields including data fields sufficient for a workers' compensation injury report, the prompted data fields including employer name, injury date and injury type data fields, wherein the injury report system produces a report from the input data and sends the report to the payer computer system and to the employer computer system.

52. A workers' compensation system including:
a bill submission system on a server, the server accessible across the Internet to multiple provider computer systems and to multiple recipient computer systems, a provider computer system accessing the bill submission system and entering data into an electronic form, the bill submission system providing the bills to the recipient computer system; and

a payment status system on the server operably connected between the multiple provider computer systems and multiple payer computer systems, the payment status systems allowing the checking of submitted bills' status.

53. A workers' compensation system including:
a bill status service stored on a workers' compensation server, the bill status service server software interacting with a provider computer and a payer computer, the bill status service server including a web page at the workers' compensation server accessible by the provider computer that allows the user at

the provider computer to produce an inquiry concerning a bill status, the workers' compensation server producing a message to a payer computer which allows a user at the payer computer to access a web page which allows for input of standardized responses to a bill status inquiry, the workers' compensation server producing a message to the provider computer concerning the response to the bill status inquiry.

54. The workers' compensation system of claim 53 wherein the worker's compensation server produces information relating to the inquiries, responses and messages.